

To report a case of laboratory-confirmed influenza, contact us at 504-483-1900.

## Enhanced Surveillance for Influenza

### What the project does...

[The Immunizations Program](#) and [Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section](#) collaborate on the Enhanced Influenza Surveillance Project. The project includes three main activities: 1) sentinel surveillance for cases of influenza-like illness, 2) sentinel surveillance for laboratory-confirmed influenza, and 3) laboratory viral testing and subtyping of influenza isolates. Surveillance is accomplished through the [sentinel surveillance network](#); physician's offices, hospitals, schools, and nursing homes that provide weekly data on cases of influenza-like illness and lab-confirmed influenza throughout the year. The Centers for Disease Control case definition for influenza-like illness is fever ( $>100^{\circ}$  F) and sore throat or cough, in the absence of a known cause. Although many cases of influenza-like illness are not attributable to influenza virus, it is a good proxy measure of influenza activity.

[State influenza data](#) provide the Office of Public Health and the public with a better understanding of the influenza activity throughout Louisiana each week. This is important because each year influenza shows seasonal patterns, typically peaking in the winter. This is also important because influenza seasons differ each year; some years there is 'more flu' than other years.

In addition, sentinel physicians and hospitals submit patient throat swabs to the State Virology Laboratory for laboratory confirmation of influenza. These specimens are important as they ensure that Louisiana influenza strains are characterized each year (there are many subtypes of influenza virus). These specimens also ensure that Louisiana strains are included in each year's vaccine.

### For more information on...

- **Influenza, influenza prevention and control, and national, weekly surveillance for influenza, consider these links:**

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Influenza Prevention and Control Main Page](#)

[Prevention and Control of Influenza, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\), April 20, 2001](#)

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Influenza Weekly Summary Update](#)

- **Press releases on influenza in Louisiana during the 2000-2001 season, pick a link:**

[December 6, 2000 – “DHH Receives 2nd Flu Vaccination Shipment”](#)

[January 19, 2001 – “More Flu Cases Being Reported”](#)

- **Sentinel surveillance sites, what they do, how to become one, or to report a case [click here](#)**
- **Louisiana's enhanced influenza surveillance project, contact the Immunizations Program at (504) 483-1900 or Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-256-2748.**